

EDWIN RUTHVEN BRONSON AND MARY CLARK BRONSON



Edwin Ruthven Bronson, son of Lehman Bronson and Lucy Brass Bronson. Born October 14, 1817, in Mentor, George County, Ohio. Married Mary Clark, February 9, 1849. Died March 19, 1889, Midway.

Born October 25, 1823, at Wyandotte, Michigan. Died February 9, 1886, Midway.

Most of his young life Edwin lived on a farm in Michigan. Then at the age of 18 he went on the Great Lakes as a sailor and became a captain on a vessel. He was a sailor for a number of years before and after his marriage to Mary Clark.

Edwin Ruthven and Mary Clark Bronson were blessed with seven children, four boys and three girls.

The missionaries of the Latter-day Saint Church while laboring in Wyandotte were

able home and all their cherished things and started with a company of Saints for Utah. The Clark family was very opposed to Mary joining the Church and they felt she had disgraced them all.

Mary and the children rode in a light wagon. She drove the team of horses. Edwin drove an ox team hitched to a heavy wagon. They were in Captain Merrill's Company. They had not been travelling long when Mary became very ill with typhoid fever. They were 10 weeks crossing the plains and six of these weeks Mary was desperately ill. There were times when Edwin wanted to turn back so they could get proper care but her answer was always, "I must get to Utah."

Upon reaching Utah they settled in Cache Valley near Mary's cousin Dr. Ezra Williams. They stayed there only a short time then moved to Provo City, where they built a two-room adobe house.

Brigham Young called Edwin, along with many other men in 1858 to go to Echo Canyon to guard the pass against Johnston's army.

In the spring of 1861 the Bronson family moved to Provo Valley and settled on Snake Creek in Midway.

Mary was president of the Relief Society a number of years. Later she was stake secretary until her health failed and she had to resign. She went among the sick and comforted those who were in trouble and also helped take care of the dead.

Edwin and Mary were very proud of their daughter Sarah Eliza when she was privileged to attend Brigham Young Academy. She was very fortunate to have studied under Karl G. Maeser. She was the first young lady to attend this school from Wasatch.

Children of Edwin and Mary were:
Everice Ruthven, married Cynthia Van Wagoner

Charles Isaac, married Martha Ann Smith

Sarah Eliza, married William Bonner

Avis Mary, married David L. Van Wagoner

Alice Naomi, married Edwin Van Wagoner

George Clark, married Lettie Van Wagoner

Alvin Tracy, died young.

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